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"Testing held for Norfolk Fire Captain position"



Fire division leaders from around the state recently evaluated candidates for the Norfolk Fire Captain position.

What would do if you were the shift commander at the City of Norfolk Fire Division and a call came in that the Kensington apartment complex was on fire? Candidates for Fire Captain were put through just such a scenario last week.

With Steve Bettendorf retiring from the Fire Division, the City's Human Resource Director, Sheila Schukei, and Fire Chief Scott Cordes are looking for another leader who is able to take charge in a fire situation.

candidate was brought into the training room with three evaluators: City of Lincoln Fire Captain Eddie Mueller; City of Grand Island Shift Commander Ed Carlin; and City of North Platte Fire Captain Jeff Hankla.

One of the many assessments given to the Fire Captain candidates is the fire simulation exercise. The

Schukei explained the scenario to each candidate. A fire was detected in a five story structure at 108 N. 4th Street. It's 6:30 am with 10 mile per hour winds. Heavy smoke is evident and you've got five minutes to organize resources and implement a plan. You will then use a radio to send instructions to someone who is also sitting in the room and who will play the part of whoever you're calling on the radio. Go.

"Most people don't realize the quick thinking, calmness under stressful conditions and intense concentration in what might be life-threatening conditions that a firefighter must have. Our fire captains have people's lives, homes and businesses depending on the decisions they make," said Schukei.

The candidates used a two way radio as if they were calling Lyle Lutt, the City's Risk Manager, to set up a staging area, identify fire hydrants, contact utilities officials, talk to evacuation groups, and call for mutual aid from surrounding communities.

The evaluators took notes while the candidates went through the drill. They then rated their performance of each candidate after they left and told Schukei they were impressed by all of those who were applying for the position.

Schukei said the decision as to who will be the new City of Norfolk Fire captain will be made in December.